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RIP HEPPLE -- MONSTER HUNTER

by PAUL SCREETON

Rip Hepple's hobby is monster hunting.

Rightly the man who co-ordinates the nation's monster-spotters comes from the region which spawned Britain's best-known dragon, the Lambton Worm.

Train spotters head for Crewe, Derby and Doncaster; plane spotters flock to Gatwick and Heathrow; but for monster spotters it must be Loch Ness.



There are other locations boasting their quota of loch, river and offshore sightings, but Loch

Ness is to star monsters what Hollywood is to film stars.

Rip Hepple (46), a flourspar mineworker of Bishop Auckland, serves as focus for monster spotters, producing a newsletter for the Ness Information Service.

His background for becoming a monsterphile -- the term he prefers -- is an interest developed just before he left school.

"Around 1963 or 1964 I aimed to travel through Scotland to meet a friend in John o' Groats," he recalls. "I had heard of Loch Ness and the monster. I decided I must have a look so I went and saw it. There I discovered the information bureau and became a volunteer."

Personal circumstances meant that early in the Seventies he had the opportunity to spend a full season there. He became involved with Tim Dinsdale, a man whose interest in the monster borders on the fanatical as seen by an outsider. Dinsdale has written books on the subject and made more than a score of expeditions to the loch.

"When the bureau closed down there was a sudden lack of information on the subject. They had produced an occasional newsletter and this was the sort of information that was then missing. Fortunately I knew the investigators there and many of the locals so I decided to fill the breach. I was timid to take the plunge but got it started."

The first copy was dated February, 1974.

"The Nessletter is a one-family operation in our spare time. The children help with addressing envelopes, folding the newsletters, and sticking on the stamps. It is sent out to just over 200 members of the Ness Information Service," said Rip.

Members are fairly evenly scattered around the country and there are, of course, several in the North East. Six copies are sent out each year. Issues give the latest information on sightings, developments at the loch, personalities involved, what readers think the creatures may be, and news on worldwide water monsters and other mystery animals. It is written up with enthusiasm -- the keynote of the involved amateur. It comes highly recommended by this writer. Subscription is £2 from Rip Hepple, Huntshieldford, St John's Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, DL13 1RQ.

The next (current, No. 47*) will have details of the Hepple family's latest expedition to the loch. They have just returned and as usual no personal sighting.

"I only heard of one proper sighting so far this year and there was also a wake seen," said Rip.

Though Rip has never seen a monster, his daughter may have done. When at Loch Ness in 1976 he and his wife Doris were in bed drinking tea around 8 a.m. They were talking about a reported "hearing" by campers on the shore by Urquhart Bay.

* see end of article.

"I was saying that the closest animals were the horses and cattle in the fields some hundreds of yards away," recalls Rip. "Our youngest, Heather, who was two and in her cot on the side of the caravan, was sitting up looking out of the window. Suddenly she said, 'there's a horsey on the water.' Seconds passed as what she had said registered, then further seconds as we scrambled up. As we did, she said, 'Oh gone'.

"We, by this time, were looking out of the window and all there was were three foot waves, little white caps, all dotted about. We tried to get her to tell us what she had seen, without leading her, but she would not say it again until much later. That is all there was to it, but it is now a family joke that after all the years I've been watching I've seen nothing but our Heather has. But what she saw, if anything, will never be known. It could be our talking about cows and horses caused her to say something, just to join our conversation, who knows?"

In fact, legendary kelpies (water horses) have haunted Scottish lochs and rivers for many centuries.

But is it all legend or myth? Is there a Loch Ness monster -- or monsters? Is there a real Morag in Loch Morar? There have been plenty of sightings, photographs, even films. Expeditions with the most sophisticated gear available from today's technology have been utilized, yet the scientific establishment remains sceptical and laymen see the venture as a romantic quest.

St Columba reported seeing the monster in the sixth century and then little was heard until the 1930s, when a new road was built along the north-western shore. Workmen, then local residents, followed by the Press took notice. The Inverness Courier of May 2, 1933, first coined the term "The Loch Ness Monster." Then came the tourists and Fleet Street's attention.

The renewed interest in the occult during the Sixties made joking about the subject unfashionable. Pictures had been taken previously, but when a few years ago the modern wizard Tony Shiels deliberately conjured a monster from the depths and photographed it the public took notice.

The psychic involvement in this instance is discomforting for many monster buffs who see the creature as a substantial entity. They see no place for the paranormal in mystery animal hunting. They want a flesh and blood animal or none at all, just as flying saucer researchers hate to think their quarry is anything less than nuts and bolts technology.

If physical, could it be a monster eel, seal, otter, newt or some dinosaur such as the plesiosaur?

Rip is inclined towards the physical rather than psychic nature of the phenomenon.

"There is much we do not know about the ability of the human mind and if sufficient people are concentrating on producing a 30-foot creature with a long neck who knows what might happen. I vaguely understand the psychic argument but it is difficult to prove. My outlook is to get one of the creatures or a really good photograph. I think we are basically dealing with something not too unusual. There seems to be a family of unknown animals. They must be something either unknown or forgotten to science," Rip considers.

*** * This forms the first half of an article written for The Mail, Hartlepool, and the remainder covered Loch Ness projects and a report of a 19th century sea serpent sighting off Blackhall, Co. Durham. I will not bore readers with office politics, but feel Rip deserves to see that what he said during our telephone interview was taken down and written up. My article received the heavy blue pencil treatment and the first half appears here as it got into type and was subsequently "edited". Time, effort, commitment, then....all part of life's rich tapestry....

MAGAZINES

QUEST. Q. Sample copy 75p; sub. £3; U.S. 8 dollars; six recent back issues £2. From Marian Green, BCM--SCL Quest, London WC1N 3XX. A magazine of ancient arts taught in a modern world, well balanced, sane and no disharmonies.

Now it's my turn to apologise to exchange magazine editors for delaying publishing details of their products.

No. 43. M. Green on polarity and partnerships, balancing relationships and learning more of one's inner self; Peter Larkworthy on a rite to Dionysius; John Ledbury on the perils of being aged between 28 and 30; Daiana Demdike on the witch wand; Paul Screeton on the wisdom of visiting the less publicized prehistoric sites and in particular Cumbrian ones in autumn; John and Heather White on a health system I had not come across. No. 44. Diana Demdike on the living and changing Old Religion; Ruth Smith ignores David Bellamy and talks successfully to her plants; Irene Carruthers delves into Welsh tradition; Holly on Twelfth Night ritual John Ledbury on astrological Pluto; Scryer has magical tips for those hard-up. No. 45. Russell Scott at Alderley Edge for Samhain; Archie Mercer reviews a novel new Tarot pack; John Ledbury urges you to talk to your plants; Simon Court on the politics of the soul; Sue Blackmore on astral travel; Diana Demdike advises. No. 46. Irene Carruthers on the Dinas Emrys omphalos; John Ledbury soundly trashes Erika Cheetham's "scholarship" on astrological matters; and a thought-provoking piece shedding new light on Rennes le Chateau by Derek Burton. No. 47. M. Green on possible organisation of magico-pagan groups and individuals; Diana Demdike on the gap requiring filling by a modern version of the village witch in modern society; M. Green also on sensible past life recall; Kati Koppala on seeking wisdom in Finland; Holly on ideas to celebrate a personal harvest; John Ledbury down to earth on astrology; Derek Burton prefers the symbolists to the ancient astronauts on Ezekiel's vision. Each issue has book reviews, mag addresses and other info. *****

ESSEX LANDSCAPE MYSTERIES. A mag of antiquities, folklore and paraphenomena of Essex. Greatly admired and welcomed, but in flux. A fourth issue is promised -- at least -- so if you subscribe you'll either get money back or ask for all four excellent issues. Q. Single copies 50p; sub. £2. Uncrossed P.O. to Glen Mead, 9 Ashwin Avenue, Copford, Colchester, Essex, CO6 1BS. No. 1. Donald Maxwell's pioneer ley topographical enthusiasm under the microscope; UFOs; Borley; Celts; landscape geometry; Saffron Walden turf maze; and other items. No. 2. A.A. Hammond discusses his discovery of a Neolithic henge in Havering (also No. 3); M.A. Howard on witchcraft connections with Canewdon; Glen Mead on the tracks of a big mystery bird; Bob Easton on Essex ufology; Jim Kimmis cycles off church spotting; plus material on Essex Natuarlaists' Trust, hauntings, reviews, miscellany. No. 3. Ivan Bunn (the Barbara Woodhouse of black dogs) on Essex's phantom canines; Jeff Saward on a "new" cursus; "ley hunting" in Essex in 1968; Stanstead Airport saga; Glen Mead on severed head carvings; Jim Kimmis applies Kurt Gerlach's theories in Germany to his own landscape with interesting results; the much-maligned C.A.E. O'Brien revisited; D.R. Mott on Walton-on-the-Naze's vanished church; plus lengthy opening miscellany. *****

THE LEY HUNTER. Major earth mysteries mag. Four-issue sub. £3-80; U.S. 7-50 dollars. From P.O. Box 13, Welshpool, Powys, Wales. No. 90. Prof. R.J.C. Atkinson commendably puts forward orthodox archaeologists' objections to leys in a dignified and concise manner. These are all dismissed courteously, sensibly and scientifically by a forum of E.M. experts. Dr Don Robins challenges Prof. Aubrey Burl on excavated bones and his lurid view of early man; Bob Forrest demythologises a "pyramyth"; John Michell explains ancient metrology; Martin Brennan details an Irish ley; the Bords go mythery animal hunting; Paul Screeton suggests a psychic survival system; plus much more. A mag no one can afford not to be without. *****

ESSEX CHURCH DEDICATIONS

by JIM KIMMIS

For those who believe church dedications are more than a whim and that geomancy was alive and well after Christianity supposedly replaced superstition and arcane practices, here is an index with notes on the distribution and on the calendar of saints' days. The seeming parochial nature of the work is easily dismissed, because it would be instructive to undertake such a study of each county. Admittedly dry, the book puts forward speculations and there are 8 maps. Its writer tells me he only expects it to have minority appeal and it is less likely to arouse interest than a work on local stones or UFO sightings, say. Nevertheless, no lesser researcher than T.C. Lethbridge drew important conclusions from church dedications, and this well researched booklet is a worthy addition to any geomant's library. -- From Jim, of 32 Onslow Crescent, Blackheath, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8UN.

SERPENT STONE. Covers all aspects of the occult and New Age. Sub. £2-20 or 55p for single issue (blank P.O.) From 112 Clinton Lane, Kenilworth, Warwickshire. No. 1. Sue Aird on Uffington Dragon hill figure and Wayland's Smithy; 36 Yakshinis of Tantrika; Legend of the Cornovii; introduction to Enochian magic; cosmic consciousness; poems and hymn. No. 2. Nigel Pennick on his favourite topic of the desecralized cosmos; Paul Screeton on stone simulacra; Andrew Fountain on the power of thought; plus articles on initiation, herbalism, witchcraft, dragon power and discrimination. No. 3. Indradnush Nath on amanita muscaria, which taught me of the taboo on edible mushrooms in the Highlands (though he neglects to mention its use by Viking Berserkers); other material leaning towards the abstract occult. *****

PENDRAGON. Journal of the Pendragon Society. Annual sub., inc Q journal £3 or 9 dollars. From 27 Roslyn Road, Redland, Bristol, BS6 6NJ. The society investigates Arthurian history and archaeology, plus the mystery and mythology of the Matter of Britain. Vol. XIII, No. 3. Rick Plewes is genuinely thought-provoking on prehistory and the Matter of Britain in contrast with a thankful ending of David Stringer's mindless muddled marathon. Chris Turner's henge ideas; a review of modern Arthurian expression; and other items. Vol. XIII, No. 4. Cornwall is this issue's theme and articles are on Tristan; Templars; Lyonsesse; a Cornish maze; tracing of ancestral origins; opera; Wagner; and Think 80 Overview. Vol. XIV, No. 1. Chris Turner on parallels between the Amerindians and Celts; John Michael on the Mabinogion; mystic Bruges (a lovely place which I've cycled around and where my father was educated); Cathars, reincarnation and heresy. Vol. XIV, No. 2. R.A. Gilbert pours cold water on Rennes le Chateau speculation; Sid Birchby on Galahad as a Wet and his quest; Paddy Stone connects his Galahad piece with ley hunting's Elen; Alex Schlesinger on a Gower excavation; Chris Turner on "The Grail Cycle and St David"; and also more on Galahad. *****

LINCOLNSHIRE DRAGON. Moving from Q to lesser frequency. £2. From Andrew Pickering, 16 Packhorse Lane, Swineshead, Boston, Lincs., PE20 3JE. No. 3. Robert Morrell on a familiar theme for him, his trepidation about ufologists' espousal of a paranormal basis (replied to in No. 4 by Nigel Watson who here writes briefly on UFOs and religious aspects; Sig Lonegren on dowsing leys at power centres; and Enid Pearson on telepathy. No. 4. Jenny Randles on UFOs and psychic phenomena; Andrew Pickering on paganism and politics; the moated site at Manwarrings; plus UFO sightings. No. 5. Paul Screeton on dragon legends and old sites; Ted Armstrong on Templars; plus very simplified articles on leys and levitation. No. 6. Black dog expert Ivan Bunn on Lincs. examples; Paul Screeton on healing stones; Mike Howard on pagans against nukes; Robert Carrington on places of musical inspiration; and Jim Kimmis on Hengist in Lindsey. *****

QUICKSILVER MESSENGER. Four-issue sub. £3-20; U.S. 15 dollars. From Garden Flat, 46 Vere Road, Brighton, Sussex. No. 3. Editor Chris Ashton on the destruction of Hove's great mound; a John Foster Forbes extract on "Unknown Sussex"; Dave Holland on Lewes Priory Mount; Ward Rutherford on shamanism; Chris Hall on mystery animals; part 3 of Colin Bloy's introduction to ley dowsing. No. 4. Egerton Sykes interviewed; Mike Collier on the Long Man of Wilmington; Chris Ashton on earth mysteries at Woltonbury; and Peter Costello on a Sussex sea serpent. Plus book reviews and lively, intelligent letters column. **** THE ATLANTIC. Q. Mag of The Atlanteans, a society with a philosophy offering a compassionate approach to life. £3; 9-50 dollars from 42 St George's Street, Cheltenham, GL50 4AF. No. 183. Egerton Sykes' thoughts on Atlantis; Ron Seats on introverted intuitives; Chris Eldon Lee on earth mysteries. No. 185. Chris Eldon Lee on the circular form of worship; Ron Seats on transforming our inner lives and our outer world; Frances Horne, ~~Lillian Lee~~, and Gertrude Karnow separately on cancer and transformation; Paul and Sandra Mayo on meditation and Arthurian Knight archetypes. *****

THE CAULDRON. Q. Single issue 25p; sub. £1 (blank P.O. or cash); U.S. 4 dollar bills -- no cheques. From BCM Box 1633, London WC1N 3XX. No. 20. Articles on Harvest Home; Gerald Gardner and hereditary witchcraft; practical craft magic and wine making, plus book reviews, econews, and items on various topics, including home education of children, urban pagans, and Columba. No. 21. Articles on Wild Hunt; candle magick; modern Druidism; A.C. Clarke attacked; politics and paganism; Arthurian paganism. No. 22. John Billingsley writes on Celtic head cult (concluded No. 23); pagans and ancient sites; David Stasin on music and ritual; witchcraft and gay people; treelore; 13th. zodiac sign; vegetarianism; falseness of rural utopia. No. 23. International issue with brief pieces on such topics as Canadian pagan scene; Hawaiian kahunas; reburial of mummies; "bush justice" against alleged witches; Moroccan rites of Pan; Aztec survivals. *****

HERETIC VISIONS. Price and frequency unknown. B.C.M. BOZO, London W.C.1. No. 1. Magnificent essay by John Michell opens the newsprint newcomer and introduces the fourth appearance so far of his anti-Darwin theses; two stories by Welsh playwright Dedwydd Jones, the first of which is absolutely brilliant; Heathcote Williams grapples with the terrors of mathematics; interesting graphics and page cartoon strip by Hunt Emerson; latest dirt on dogs' doings; a piece which takes influences from J.G. Ballard and William Blake and lets rip; plus selections of news cuttings clipped by John Nicholson and Cecilia Boggis, whose effect would have been sharper were it not for the inclusion of politics of envy material. Resembles the old IT but with wider vision, more literary and much angrier. Hope it's not a one-shot.

NORTHERN EARTH MYSTERIES. Journal of the Northern Earthy Mysteries Group. £2 for six issues; single issues 45p (inc. p&p). From P. Heselton, 15 Convent Court, Park Grove, Hull, HU5 2UJ.

No. 11. Frank Earp relates a strange encounter

he experienced personally when younger; Don Lee explores a Mancunian earthwork complex; Ted Armstrong delves into the past of Hexthorpe and Conisbrough; Paul Screeton mixes trainspotting, both past and present, with doubts about the archaeologists' inferences about Shap Avenue; Guy Ragland Phillips discusses New Age awareness. No. 12. Paul Screeton writes an obituary on the late Frank Lockwood, Circumlibra to T.L. readers; Philip Heselton on the late Philip Rodgers and EVP; Brian Larkman on states of consciousness and leys (also Nos. 13 and 14); Richard Smith looks sceptically at leys. No. 13. Replies to R. Smith from Jimmy Goddard and John A. Glover; Philip Heselton on The Ley Hunter's Club; Ted Armstrong back at Conisbrough; Paul Screeton on stones, thunder and lightning. No. 14. Obituary on Tony Wedd; John Barnatt and Phil Reeder on Peak District cup and ring carvings; C.S. Hay on Cleveland sites; and an anonymous writer concerned with the direction of earth mysteries research. Issues also have meeting news, letters and miscellaneous items.

***** FORTEAN TIMES. The Journal of Strange Phenomena. Q. Subs.

£4 or 10 dollars. From B.M.-- Fortean Times, London WC1N 3XX. No. 34. Plenty on mystery big cats; beached whales and giant squid; ice falls; synchronicity; a Congolese search for dinosaurs; phantom hitchhikers; nicknames of aquatic monsters; out of place wildlife; inept crimes; animal saboteurs; Doc Shiels in Ireland; David Fiedeler on suburban shamanism. Plus lively letters (has to be with Tony Roberts), comics and reviews. Third outing in print of John Michell's attack on Darwinism; Malaysian Forteana; the Runamo Runes scandal; usual round-ups of phenomena topics and columns.

SIS REVIEW. Journal of the Society for

Interdisciplinary Studies. Membership £10 from R.M. Amelan, 6 Jersey House, Cotton Lane, Manchester, M20 9GL. Vol. IV, No. 4. Opens with summary of papers at a University of London public meeting on "Aspects of Catastrophism". Most readable item for me was Clark Whelton's review of how Gordon Atwater's espousal of Velikovsky's ideas adversely affected his career. Other articles are on revised chronology, Venus, Jupiter and Io. There are also many tributes following the death of Dr Immanuel Velikovsky, whose work the society seeks to extend. WORKSHOP. This is also produced by the S.I.S. as a newsletter full of smaller items and a less formal approach. Vol. 3, No. 2. Contributions are on such subjects as planetary rings, canopy theory, revised chronology, catastrophist evolution, Atlantis as a hoax, censorship, and "New Scientist" attitudes. Plus society news and letters. Vol. 3, No. 4. Martin Sieff on dragons in both myth, folklore and actuality; Chris Marx and Eric Crew separately on Venus, plus the usual stimulating theories and discussion.

***** NEARA JOURNAL. Q. Journal of New England

Antiquities Research Association, 4 Smith Street, Milford, N.H., 03055, U.S.A. Eight dollars. No. 55. A New York State alignment; much on perched rocks with plenty of photos; A.V. Manaila on cultural migration (also 56, 57); the Ulen sword demystified; Norsemen in Minnesota; Mystery Hill. No. 56. In depth investigation into a Lynn Woods mega-geometry complex with solar alignments, profusely illustrated. No. 57. Several articles on authenticity or otherwise of pre-Columbian inscribed stones; brief thoughts on megalithic religion. No. 58. New theory on

COMMON GROUND. Subtitled "Studies at the Fringe of Human Experience". Published by Kevin and Sue McClure, of 14 Northfold Road, Knighton, Leicester. Single issue £1 (4 dollars); 4-issue sub. £4 (15 dollars). No. 1. A new journal covering various paranormal topics. Jenny Randles on three linked psychic cases; Hilary Evans assesses the books on the Ripperton Farm case; Sue Blackmore on hallucinatory experiences; plus T. Lobsang Rampa, tulpas, third secret of Fatima and electronic voice phenomena. No. 2. Kevin McClure reviews the UFO control system theory; Jenny Randles looks for higher standards and qualities in ufology and she and Hilary Evans reply to Paul Devereux's letter on a need to leave all our options open still in this area of study; David Christie-Murray on speaking in tongues and paranormal speech; Michael Goss on the perils of psychical research interviews with regard to the Yorkshire Ripper himself and phantom hitchhiker tales; computer resources. Each issue having abstracts, journal listings and closing remarks.*****

6. Mystery Hill; historical sketch of inscribed Mark Rock plus 11 pictures; perched boulder alignments; possible pre-Runic Bronze Age alphabet; origins of the Newport Tower; Tulsa stone inscription. No. 59. Chronology of New England antiquity; Painter's Knob sculpture reviewed, including theory an eccentric naturelover carved the face as a birdbath; Massachusetts mega-geometry; Moroccan stone circle; talk transcript on NEARA's role; plus books by Pennick, Burl, and Dames reviewed in depth. However, a buffoon called Keith M. Jordan slighted John Michell and I, basing his reasoning, I suspect, upon reading only "The View Over Atlantis" and "Quicksilver Heritage" rather than works more contemporary with "The Ancient Science of Geomancy", such as "Ancient Metrology" and "Tales of the Hexham Heads" respectively. ***** STONEHENGE VIEWPOINT.

U.K. agency address is P.O. Box 152, London N10 1EP. £3-50 for two years -- 12 issues. No. 37. American editor Donald L. Cyr continues his bridal path theory with Scottish material and Bob Forrest puts it to a mathematical statistics test. Two letters are given on the subject of ley hunters and their worldview by Paul Screeton and R.J.C. Atkinson. Paul Devereux on ley patterns and Isaac N. Vail on the canopy theory (this and "The Heavens and Earth of Prehistoric Man" in subsequent issues). No. 38. Impressive cover picture by Gerald Ponting of halos over Callanish as the first time such phenomena have been photographed against a megalithic backdrop (also 39). Nigel Pennick adds to the mill symbolism debate; Cary James points to difficulties in deductions from maps while Bob Forrest completely baffled me with his trigonometry; Cyr answers his critics and points to a specific area I subsequently investigated (and showed to Cyr while he was on holiday in the U.K. this summer). No. 39. A new periodic table for megaliths; 6,000 years ephemeris; the origin of horse racing; Cyr's long reminiscence of life in Michigan. No. 40. Cyr on fly swatting, kangaroo rats and symbols in nature; Cyr also on stone notches and halo geometry; Lee Bonnifield at the computer. No. 41. Curious main articles on planning aesthetics of a Californian township mingled with Vailian and megalithic concepts. No. 42. Interesting but inconclusive computer study of hidden halos and megalithic site data (also 43). No. 43. Cyr on how he has remained "invisible" for investigations. Plus each issue a catalogue of books, mags and other items for sale. ***** THE NEW CELTIC REVIEW. Q. £1-25 per issue. From Golden Section Order Society, BM Oak Grove, London WC1N 3XX. Brigantia, 1981, issue. Editor Colin Murray on the geomantic specialness of Chertsey; Cottie Burland on Boudicca and Brigantia; plus articles on Candlemas, troy towns, art nouveau; poem on Bolton Priory; news from Brittany; recipes and much more.

----- NIGEL PENNICK AND THE INSTITUTE OF GEOMANTIC RESEARCH -----

Nigel Pennick, founder of the I.G.R. six years ago, editor of various magazines, author and producer of all manner of excellent, geomantic, anarchistic and obscure works, has had to cut back on his endeavours. Dubious health and financial circumstances have necessitated some winding up. Consequently although material is reviewed below, a stamp-addressed envelope to him at 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8SD, will bring a detailed list of more than 25 publications and ascertain correct prices and availability. Nigel's prodigious efforts have been an example to all of us in the earth mysteries field and it is timely to record my personal thanks for what he has done in the past and I trust all A.S.W.R. readers will join me in expressing a wish that Nigel's health will be restored (and maybe he'll be visited by a man from Littlewoods). He hopes to continue publishing on a sporadic basis.

Firstly two defunct publications:

ANCIENT MYSTERIES. No. 18. Two pieces on Ilkley Swastika Stone; Paul Screeton on "Insects and Megaliths", being musings on possible interfaces between bugs, sacred sites, infra-red radiation and UFOs; Westphalia proclamation stones; Mike Collier's chronicle of ley hyperactivity; Jim Kimmis on a possible Iron Age star map; Patrick McFadzean on Liverpool Cathedral consecration ceremonies; mazes and magic squares. Lively letters, controversial Observatory clippings and reviews. No. 19. Nigel Pennick on the desacralized cosmos; Jim Kimmis on Beowulf; Chris Ashton on feng-shui; Philip Heselton on terrestrial zodiacs. R.I.P.

CAMBRIDGE ANCIENT MYSTERIES. Short-lived successor to A.M. No. 1. Articles on Cambs leys, with Watkins' examples re-evaluated; Nigel Pennick, Daryl Potter and Jeff Saward separately on the Hilton maze and dowsing effects; Barry Barker on Comberton "Mazles" turf maze; Findhorn publications reviewed. No. 2. Whittleford sheela-na-gig in all its glory; outstanding review. R.I.P.

LEYS OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE by KURT GERLACH. 85p inc. p&p. Translated by Michael Behrend, these essays were printed in GERMANIEN between 1940 and 1943. The lines here are not strictly leys but mark church foundations of the 10th and 12th centuries, supposedly to provide lines of

communication and guide travellers across the landscape. The work smacks a little of Nazi propaganda and one of the lines even extends to York. It involves also folklore and the Devil. Esoteric and illuminating.

WELSH TEMPLE OF THE ZODIAC by LEWIS EDWARDS. I.G.R. Occasional Paper No. 18. In a sense an irritating reprint for I still have a few copies available of the reprint I did of this seminal later Forties work (31p in stamps from me). My issue has an introduction, whereas here the reader is faced with an old work which could be construed as new. It is a tidy production job and includes the map I was unable to reproduce (the original in ATLANTIS and here are still almost useless). Facsimile printing is a gain but the booklet seems to lie in a limbo as it stands.

EUROPEAN TROYTOWNS by NIGEL PENNICK. Fenri-Wolf. A useful addition to the growing interest in mazes. The European ones discussed here were made largely of small boulders and their form, distribution, nomenclature and uses are discussed. Also covered are sacred trees. There is a fine photograph of a troytown and many diagrams of different examples; also an appendix of continental pavement labyrinths and bibliography.

From the Cambridge Ancient Mysteries Group come three works, all 25p, inc p&p:

THE CAMBRIDGE 7-CHURCH LEY by NIGEL PENNICK & MICHAEL BEHREND. Ten years ago I was in Cambridge and was shown this ley, including a view from one of the tall towers on it. Impressive it certainly is, passing exactly through the centre of the round nave of the Holy Sepulcre Church, a wall is exactly parallel to the ley and it passes through two side chapels which are still in use. This is a neat little production job with Pennick's text and Behrend's calculations. Though Alfred Watkins wrote on the locality, it was Pennick in 1967 who drew attention to the significance of this line. A worthy production.

TUNNELS UNDER LONDON by NIGEL PENNICK

£1-20 inc p&p. Third edition of a work which is essential reading for those who have followed Peter Laurie's thesis and are disturbed that subterranean London has more to it than the L.T. Underground we all love or hate. Pennick shows there is/was much more of it than meets the (unofficial) eye. There are plenty of drawings and diagrams and even good photographs taken inside the bunker network. Intriguing and alarming.

THE PROOF OF ANCIENT TRACK ALINEMENT by ALFRED WATKINS. 30p inc p&p. I.G.R. Occasional Paper No. 22. Published in recognition of Alfred Watkins' ley discovery 60 years ago, this is a reprint of the original from ANTIQUARIAN ASSOCIATION JOURNAL for September, 1931, via the JOURNAL OF GEOMANCY. A brief work, it forms a condensed outline of conclusions after nine years of experience by Watkins and other field observers. Watkins himself calls it "very dull but necessary" and confined to seeking the logicality of leys. In it he explains how statistically he came to adjudge a four-point alinement of ancient sites likely to have been designed by man. Four actual track alinements from THE LEY HUNTER'S MANUAL are here reproduced redrawn.

ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL LABYRINTHS by E. TROLLOPE. 50p, inc p&p. Joint production by I.G.R. and Caerdroia Project. Fascinating booklet on labyrinths and troy towns, a subject until recently sadly neglected but enjoying quite a revival. This timely reprint offers us a view of an enigmatic subject with many illustrations of the mazes which were once moderately common on village greens. Their form, distribution and purpose are discussed and there are four pages of additional notes at the end of the work.

WALRUS. 45 p inc p&p. No. 17. London tunnels; mazes; police state; imperialism; revenge of Isle of Wight fish-demon, arson about; and plenty of satirical irreverence.

FLAGELLAR SCALES IN HEMISELMIS BRUNNESCENS BUTCHER AND H. VIRESSENS DROOP (CRYPTOPHYCEAE) by NIGEL PENNICK. Too heavy, man. Out of sight.

PRECHRISTIAN GEOMANCY

by JOSEF HEINSCH.

Heinsch wrote on sacred geography before World War II and his holy lines are basically what in Britain are known as leys. This pioneer work on prehistoric surveying researched by Heinsch has been translated by Michael Behrend. The compact article from 1935 is illustrated.

WANDLEBURY MYSTERIES

by NIGEL PENNICK.

Reprinted from ALBION here is the woeful tale of T.C. Lethbridge's rediscovery of the Gog Magog figures and the deplorable academic politics which allowed them to slip back into the landscape. No wonder "rescue archaeology" receives scant sympathy from E.M. workers who have seen this allowed to happen.

MAGONIA. Independent mag devoted to broad examination of UFO phenomena and sociopsychological interaction. Q. U.K. £1-75 sub; U.S. 5 dollars. Cheques and money orders should be made payable to John Rimmer. Address 64 Alric Avenue, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4JW. No. 5. Roger Sandell begins an inquiry into conspiracy theories (cont. No. 7); curious investigation into a percipient by Les Maisey; continuation of P. Rogerson's International catalogue of Type I UFO records; plus book reviews and letters. No. 6. Dr Willy Smith defends hypnotic regression; Jenny Randles on the curious case of the bogus Peter Hargreaves; John Harney continues his probe into how extraterrestrial life has entered our world -- or rather universe -- view; John Fletcher on Welsh-speaking Red Indians myth. No. 7. Editorial on the compromises being a "full-time UFO author" involve; Peter Rogerson assesses the changing views of the core of the UFO phenomenon and its shifting theories in a sociological context.

NORTHERN UFO NEWS and NORTHERN UFOLOGY monthly in series. £3-60. From Jenny Randles, 8 Whitethroat Walk, Birchwood, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 8PQ. No. 78. Crazy editorial on ufologists creating ufocals. Various bits of articles inc. Paul Sreeton on "A New Ufocal", about my family members' experiences. No. 79. Attack on Arthur C. Clark and Yorkshire TV; debate with Ian Ridpath. No. 80. B.B.C. TV play reviewed; various pieces on why contributors believe in UFOs and the evidence; 1980 books round-up. No. 81. New line of attack on J. Randles; J.R. in the House of Lords (no, not a peerage for services to ufology yet...); "Hangar 18" film reviewed. No. 82. Editorial on UFO awards; Nigel Watson on putting ufology's own house in order; new relationship between UFO networks. No. 83. Topic is "window areas" and a disappointing response; J.R. on lecturing to pupils; Nigel Watson on John Lennon. No. 84. Bob Morrell's guest editorial is predictable and critical of the paranormalists; code of practice; Bords' new book reviewed. No. 85. BUFORA congress and Colin Dunne's daft SUN write-up. No. 86. Contributions on vehicle interference, with J.R.'s the best. No. 87. J. Bernard Delair on the Cosmos 1068 debate. No. 88. Argument giving correlation between Koestler's "Janus" and Johnson's "The Janos People"; commonsense on fireball reports. No. 89. J.R. on the role of the ufologist, Llanerchymedd again and the Jan Adamski riddle (where she wonders who tipped off the SUNDAY MIRROR). The answer is that a virtually identical story appeared as front page lead in the YORKSHIRE EVENING POST on Sept. 19 as an exclusive by Tony Harney, which gave comments from Nigel Mortimer, quoted as "a member of Northern UFO News"!! So how about that then folks? Plus each issue usual sightings reports and news round-up.

UFO RESEARCH REVIEW. Q. Mag of Nottingham UFO Society, 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham, NG2 3GB. Sub £1-60 or 5-80 dollars. Cheques/P.O. to be made payable to NUFOIS. Vol. 6, No. 1. Editor Bob Morrell reviews 1980 UFO scene and with Mark Tyrrell presents a very useful abstract of 122 articles published during the year of ufological interest. Ken Phillips gives a rundown on major hypotheses on the UFO phenomenon's nature. Vol. 6, No. 2. Issue given over to in-depth Ashbourne, Derbyshire, area sightings.

UFO INSIGHT. Six-issue sub £2-20. Pay by crossed cheque or P.O. made out to Federation UFO Research and addressed to UFO Insight, 170 Henry Street, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 4BQ. No. 7. Lengthy report on meeting in Copenhagen of the Provisional International Committee on UFO Research; Bertil Kuhlemann on levels of UFO research; Per Andersen interviewed by Mark A. Tyrrell; C.D. Allan demystifies the stories of astronauts having seen alien hardware. No. 8. Tyrrell on methodology (with my knuckles rapped); C.D. Allan demystifies UFO conspiracies; Stuart Campbell dismembers the dreamworld of "The Janos People"; Hilary Evans on deducing the nature of the UFO as "machine". Included is a Llanerchymedd appendix attacking J. Randles (reply and counter-reply in No. 9). Also for subscribers is a lengthy specific case history report (though it fails to probe the possible UFO/ley connection -- a Roman road featured on the map shown may well be a ley). No. 9. Interview with Bertil Kuhlemann on co-operative enterprises and article by him on a project to collect, register and evaluate data of possible UFO phenomena; excellent investigation proves Berlitz/Moore saucer crash and live aliens to have been a journalistic April Fool hoax; Kevin McClure's knuckles rapped.

SKYWATCH. Sub and membership to MAPIT is £3 (six issues); single copies 35p. From David Rees, 92 Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 5SE. No. 38. Particularly interesting is Kevin McClure on the Birmingham NUFON conference and personalities and belief systems involved. Also Mark Moravec sensibly analyses cases of "mental communication" with purported UFO entities; Chris Rutkowski on ufology and ufologists. No. 39. Hilary Evans on "real" CE3 cases and space-age scapegoats; Robert Morrell reflects on the chaotic nature of ufology; while Jenny Randles discusses the

area of fence-sitting, "Middle Ufology". No. 40. John Prytz on how ufologists can gain their information data base and use it to best advantage. Plus reviews and news bits.

ANARCHISM ANARCHISM ANARCHISM ANARCHISM ANARCHISM ANARCHISM ANARCHISM

WHAT PRICE FREEDOM? A councillor went to Seaton Snooks, an area of sand dunes near where I live, where people regularly take their dogs for exercise or go to observe migratory birds at the Tees estuary. When he returned to his car he was stopped and questioned by armed soldiers. There was no military exercise underway and he was on public land. However, a huge bunker complex lies in the vicinity and his car was made in Russia. He did not enjoy the experience. Such confrontations on mainland Britain are becoming all too familiar.

Stuart Christie would not be surprised. He runs the Cienfuegos Press, a publishing house responsible for literature which alarms M.P.s. Of all publications, the DAILY TELEGRAPH wrote about him at great length (August 11, 1980), and contended: "Although he has been comfortably 'out of sight, out of mind' for the Special Branch in recent years, he is still regarded as the most influential figure in British anarchist circles."

The reason space is occasionally given in A.S.W.R. to anarchism is because its central core -- man's inalienable right to liberty -- is in harmony with the study of the spiritual sciences. As the anthropologist Mircea Eliade stated: "The desire for absolute freedom ranks among the essential longings of man, irrespective of the stage his culture has reached and of its forms of social organisation."

The military everywhere is a threat. Freedom is being eroded daily and if one can stomach the style it is written in, HIGH INTENSITY SUBVERSION by RONIN (£1), will prove a salutary read. Based on the 1971 "Low Intensity Operations" book, by Brig. Frank Kitson, this speculative summation is more than paranoia. The military mind is a fearful monster. Long, detailed, pictorially excellent, it is very worthwhile.

Another military man of a different sort was J.R. WHITE, who died in 1940, whose ANARCHY (50p) is a fine essay by a latecomer to the persuasion. A sample quote is as timely today as it was decades ago: "The people's only road to real freedom lies in the voluntary co-ordination of the maximum individual spontaneity. All social panaceas that seek to supersede that co-ordinated spontaneity, even as a means to the alleged end of restoring it, must lead not to freedom but to the loss of such freedom as the people have achieved and to increasing depth of tyranny." here is a lengthy introduction by Albert Meltzer, which gives a background to the "Irish problem".

Anarchism has a rich history and THE FIRST MAYDAY (£1) explains how May 1 became a date for international working class solidarity, which I doubt if more than 1 in 1,000 people know, and constitutes speeches delivered between 1885 and 1910 by anarchist agitator VOLTAIRINE DE CLEYRE. The U.S. labour militants' mood is naturally applicable internationally and at any time.

Christie also distributes BLACK FLAG (cover price 25p), monthly organ of the Anarchist Black Cross. Covering international news and anarchist activities it keeps fellow spirits informed. Vol. VI, No. 6. Provocative cover communique about "The Angry Brigade is Getting Angry -- Again!" plus material from U.K., N. Ireland, S. Africa, Germany, Spain and speech -- in full -- by Christie.

A catalogue is available for s.a.e. from Cienfuegos Press, Over the Water, Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2BL.

BOOKS BOOKS

ANCIENT METROLOGY by JOHN MICHELL (From the author, 11 Powis Gardens, London W11. hardback £7 + 50p p&p; paperback £3 + 25p p&p).

Numberless books have been written on Stonehenge and the Great Pyramid, mostly ones which may be consigned to the glittering galaxy of crank literature and brain-boggling innumeracy. Few measure up to the exacting standards which they purport to explain and their degree of lucidity more befits a befogging pea souper rather than crystal clear insight.

Mystical thought may not generally be most readily expected to express the philosophy of number, but since the prehistoric period of ancient numeracy enlightenment, men have sought revelations from the language of number and its physical expression.

10. There has been a modern revival of the ancient, mystical philosophy of number and John Michell has been in the vanguard of exploring and elucidating the concept. This work's thesis is a re-emphasis of the ideas dealt with in his "City of Revelation". It is about how an individual, or at least a single source, suddenly expressed interlinked measures, numeration and geodetic standards. Full-blown it arrived on the scene and an ancient civilisation applied the system universally in its culture and monuments. Herin was encapsulated the shape and dimensions of planet Earth and its neighbours in the heavens.

Then began the demise of a learned and sophisticated system whose standards of accuracy we have only in the past century or so been capable of rechecking and appreciating. This book salutes those mathematician technicians of the megalithic world.

That people so enormously technologically different to ourselves could measure the planet without micro-chip sophistication has led to reactions as diverse as diligent positive appraisal, contemptuous and unreasoned silence, or embrace of ancient astronaut intervention by detractors of the notion that such knowledge could have originated naturally (or supernaturally). There have certainly been arguments over the length and breadth of time such measuring sophistication has been posited, the vehemence of which must seem irrational to those regarding the whole subject as drearily academic.

The book's subtitle is "The Dimensions of Stonehenge and of the Whole World as therein symbolised." An illustration on the cover by William Blake adds to the timeless and mystical nature of the work.

Here discussed are the toils and tribulations of embattled experts on how to measure the base of the Great Pyramid, the Biblical New Jerusalem, Stonehenge decoded and no doubt still retaining many further secrets, number symbolism, Thom's surveys, and other aspects of exact lengths and ancient units.

Even for those who cheerfully jettisoned maths upon leaving school, the chain of argument is not hard to follow so a fear of figures is no excuse for not appreciating the strength of the thesis. The facts, remarkable in themselves, beg far larger issues requiring solution. This is a thoughtful treatise elevating the megalithic priest surveyors to their rightful position of mystical scientists.

"UFO STUDY : A HANDBOOK FOR ENTHUSIASTS" by JENNY RANDLES (Robert Hale, £7-95)

With so much commercialised rubbish sensationalism being published about UFOs nowadays, I am very wary of any new books that crop up. It is, therefore, a comfort to know that there is a core of authors who are genuinely interested in educating the public about the real UFO work and what goes on behind the scenes.

Jenny Randles has this in mind with her new book, "UFO STUDY", as the second part of the title states. It is literally "A HANDBOOK FOR ENTHUSIASTS".

It is split into five sections, the first serving as an introduction to the background and history of the UFO phenomenon and its study.

The second part deals with investigation and is a sort of "teach yourself" section. One would think that something like this just wouldn't work, but having thought about I believe that anyone genuinely interested in the subject and possessing an ounce or two of common-sense could become a competent investigator with the help of this section. Also at the end of each chapter is a list of things to do, by which the readers can familiarise themselves with various things affecting UFO study an investigation; e.g. go to an airport at night and watch the planes coming in -- the effects of some light configurations can be amazing!

Part three deals with case studies and contains several new cases from Britain! Makes a change from books stuffed cover to cover with stories of weird happenings to equally weird Americans!

The last two sections would be of more interest to someone with more experience, or the by now thoroughly engrossed reader! They deal with views on research and speculation on the future.

As if this wasn't enough, Jenny has added several appendices containing recent significant

cases (again mostly within Britain), a glossary, various checklists, and even a quiz just to impart a bit of fun to it all. Most investigators keep too straight-laced about it all for my liking. Personally I see no objection to anything which brightens up a subject which can be so boring for the people actually doing the graft!

To sum it up, a book with something for everyone from the beginner to the veteran ufo-
logist and an invaluable source of reference.

----- Reviewed by John Watson, a UFOIN investigator based in the North East, and founder member of the Chrysis group based in Cleveland.

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VELIKOVSKY'S SOURCES by BOB FORREST

(Parts 1 and 2, £1-50 each or £3 for both, postage included. From the author, 53 Bannerman Avenue, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 5DR)

though inclining towards some aspects of catastrophism. In fact, much of the argument for or against Velikovsky is so technical only rare individuals can play the whole game, while even the committed remain at the stage of only being able to do one side of Velikovsky's cube. At which stage, Bob Forrest, ley hunting's Doubting Thomas, would cry out that such an analogy was apposite and that Velikovsky suffered from metaphor dyslexia.

However, my friend Brian Moore, a leading light in the S.I.S., has reminded me that Velikovsky buffs are well aware of the Master's failings and in varying degrees I suspect will not be too appalled by Forrest's analysis. To an outsider it may look like a demolition job or skillful surgery operation, depending on one's sympathy for Dr Immanuel Velikovsky.

Certainly I have no axe to grind. Whether right or wrong, however, no right thinking person cannot but condemn the vicious academic resistance put up against Velikovsky's theories. Nevertheless, his martyrdom need not be equated with any sympathy that he was obviously right. Neither should it be assumed that Forrest's clever arguments and witty style pull the carpet entirely from beneath Velikovsky's feet. I am always wary of debunkers of any persuasion. Anyone whose approach is of necessity a negative one alerts suspicion, and knowing Forrest has been collaborating on a work inquiring into freethinkers with Patrick Moore gives reason for wonder. Were he still alive, Velikovsky, as a psychoanalyst, might have had some apposite comment to make on this situation.

Simply we seem to have in the two parts of this inquiry a "work in progress" document -- thick, duplicated and with lethal staples -- which could become a trio with later debate section.

Certainly Forrest seems to have got the measure of "Worlds in Collision", researched Velikovsky's sources and come to very different conclusions. He concludes that Velikovsky himself had "amnesia" over ignoring facts which did not fit his theory.

The analysis starts with the plagues of Egypt, where Forrest notes inconsistencies and also aspects ignored such as certain miracles. What makes the straightforward plagues acceptable and other rejected material presumably fictitious? Why ignore the lack of Sunday manna ("maintenance day for the manna machine" I hear deluded Sassoon and Dale freaks proclaim) and fall of quails ("Fortean event" chorus phenomena buffs)? And then the Venus comet lets the tide go at the moment the pharaoh and his chums are crossing the Red Sea while the little Green Man flashes ("Synchonicity" cry those forever Jung). Is the Book of Exodus the "Diary of a Catastrophist" or a solid and dramatised record of Israel's emergence as a nation? Forrest is forced to conclude that Erich von Daniken's interpretation had the edge over Velikovsky.

Equally Forrest sees the Book of Isiah less as the captain's log of the Starship Catastrophe, but rather a rant of doom-laden invective akin to Mary Whitehouse and other obsessional putitans and millenial fanatics who have plagued mankind down the foggy ruins of time. Here Velikovsky is in the company of the worthy Alfred Watkins, less worthy British Israelites and pyramidologists, quoting the prophet in order to bolster fringe theories.

Here endeth a delve into Velikovsky's Biblical sources which Forrest found wanting. These lengthy works go into many other sources and being hefty tomes I have not had the

I read Velikovsky during my mid-teens and recall his wonderment that the Bronze Age preceded, rather than followed, the Iron Age. The Venus bit and the collective amnesia were intriguing but I was sceptical. I have not changed my mind much over the past two decades,

12. opportunity yet of fully reading them. It is, however, pertinent to point out that Forrest introduces his second thrust by countering the argument that he selectively debunks. In a sense one can applaud the production of counter argument where justified. But just where are the counter sales? As a financial venture I'm sure it will be counter productive. Forrest specifies von Daniken as similar to Velikovsky, but it is salutary to note such anti-Daniken works as SOMETRUST IN CHARIOTS remain obscure compared with the speculator's various times. I wish I could have a share of the Royalties of the Gods.

Forrest's is a formidable tour de force of scholarship and mind-boggling act of perseverance. Pity it is essentially negative.

I browse through gazeteers of prehistoric monuments with the same mixture of interest and anticipation as my wife does over mail order catalogues. Each have so much to offer and too little time or money to materialise the objects of our fascination before us. My children's Christmas lists have their corollary in my expeditionary strategies and I rarely get around to see all I wish on any day just as Santa Claus inevitably fails to come up with all the goodies.

THE PENGUIN GUIDE TO PREHISTORIC ENGLAND AND WALES by JAMES DYER (Allen Lane, £9.50)

Reasons for truncating trips can be varied but it is not always my companion John Watson and I who are to blame. For instance, this splendid new addition to the growing number of guides to ancient sites has a mention of Wilson Scar stone circle. It gives the location at Thrimby, in Cumbria, as NY 550184. When we looked for it following Aubrey Burl's directions he gave a grid reference of NY 549182. We did not find it and no doubt this is the reason.

Dyer's main aim has been to choose visible monuments of the prehistoric ages which he regards as being easily discoverable if the grid reference is used. It is a personal selection and naturally anyone conversant with large numbers of sites in any given area will find omissions he would have included and others he would have discarded. Dyer admits he may have done less than justice to areas that he does not know very well. As for the areas I know best -- Cumbria and Northumberland -- I feel he has given a fair cross-section.

Unfortunately he has been unable to give the best ways of access, but the reader will appreciate this would have meant a far larger and costlier book, or one with many fewer sites described. As for the descriptions these are relatively brief and to the point, giving type of monument, dimensions, excavation details, neighbouring sites, some folklore and references. The book is set out county by county for ease, though unlike Nicholas Thomas's *GUIDE TO PREHISTORIC ENGLAND*, which then details each period in turn, Dyer has stone circles mixed with hut circles, henges with dolmens. However, an introduction supplies background information by looking at the people themselves and then considering types of monument and observing their development chronologically.

Dyer shares the general archaeological distatse for "the unfortunate craze of metal-detecting", ignores ley hunting, but is wary of taking Thom's astroarchaeology too far: "Too much attention has certainly been given to trying to attach non-existent astronomical properties to stone circles. Only a few are aligned on astronomical phenomena, and these can be verified only when the correct viewing position is known. It is tempting to try to give the circles properties which they never had. Most British churches are aligned east-west, but this does not mean that they were deliberately set up for the observation of the midsummer sunrise!"

midsummer sunrise." Dyer trained as a schoolteacher, he graduated in archaeology and is currently Head of Archaeology at a Bedfordshire school. He has published 11 books on the subject. He is keen to involve young people in the study and also to get members of the public aware of the rich heritage of monuments to be seen. From the effort expended in raising Silbury Hill to the splendour of Stonehenge, from railway mania vandalism of Kemp Howe to the 1,200 small mounds on Fylingdales Moor, we have the past at our fingertips. We have here almost 1,000 sites worth visiting to appreciate our forbears' ingenuity and styles of life. Armchair study is no substitute for fieldwork and personal exploration, of course, and this book is a useful tool to select sites to visit. The reader need not have more than a passing interest in archaeology to get value from it. The real fun is seeking the site and the sense of achievement when it is found. Not only that, there is the scenery and wildlife, fresh air and invigorating exercise; take the family and make a picnic of it. On a more mystical level there is the spiritual bonus if the task is seen as a quest. Recent information is given to make this comprehensive guide up to date. A major work of reference.

THE PENGUIN GUIDE TO PREHISTORIC ENGLAND
AND WALES by JAMES DYER (Allen Lane, £9.50)

"A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BRITISH COUNTRYSIDE" by ALFRED LEUTSCHER (edited by Nigel Sitwell, New English Library, £4.95). Exemplary no one could do. For no

How in any one book can you 15.
adequately cover our natural fauna?

Frankly no one would dare. For no one could afford the completed product. As a compromise this work serves the purpose admirably. By "concentrating on the most common, conspicuous and characteristic species", the non-specialist can recognise the type of animal, bird or plant encountered. More specific books can be used later as the novice chooses to specialise, but for the average countrygoer or rambler seeking a wider appreciation of what he or she sees, this guide is excellent. It is a chunky paperback designed for the pocket and almost every other page has colour illustrations while the adjacent page gives succinct details of the wildlife shown. Each sub-section has introductory notes. Where it differs from most such guides is to give the town dweller the ability to recognise types of crop and farm animals encountered. Even the weather, fossils, rocks and crystals are shown. More than 750 species are given in this all-in-one guide.

species are given in this all-in-one guide. I know quite a bit about natural history and this will help fill out the gaps and help me teach my children a better appreciation of the county-side. The entries give all the pertinent facts and some fascinating ones. Did you know that unloved creature many heap derision and salt upon, the black slug, has an elaborate courtship including encircling and licking one another? Actually I thre these over neighbours' gardens until I found they rarely attacked healthy plants, but the woodlouse I only here found is generally useful to gardeners. So before you stamp on any soil animal check here to see if you are despatching a benefactor. However, I suspect the smooth and palmate newts have been mixed up here, but apart from that no quibbles. This is a treasury of our natural heritage and a call to get ourselves out and enjoy it -- with the aid of this fine book.

"THE FLORAL ORACLE" by JO SHERIDAN (Granada, £1-50) One for the fortune telling believing fraternity, this is a harmless book of astrological lore surrounding plants and trees and the signs of the zodiac. An astrologer who writes regularly, the style is simple and many of the plants are depicted in line drawings. For those seeking to know the future, she argues that the floral oracle can be consulted to provide meaningful answers without the necessity for extended study or preparation. All you need is concentration, whether you treat it as a simple form of counselling and guide to the future or a more esoteric level. There is a list of questions, key to the oracle and answers. A novel way of looking ahead.

"PRECURSIVE THINKING" by DAVE REISSIG (Only available internally in U.S.A., 1 dollar, from 402 Arthur Street, Syracuse, NY, 13204). I would have given a longer review were this available in the U.K. Subtitled "Toward the Revival of Magic", this essay contends that what is loosely termed the occult is one of the remaining vestiges of what he calls precursive thinking. The simplest way to approach this realm is through trance and other states of altered consciousness. Reissig comes up with a very interesting definition in "magic is power beyond nature as perceived by the intellect." Other points he makes are why our educational system turns children off, why people chain smoke, why astrology is the most popular form of divination.....Believe me, reading this will restore your balance.

Next issue.. books on China's yeti, Kirlian photography, astrology, clairvoyant reality and Burl's latest. If buying or subscribing mention you saw your choice here.....

STOP +++ PRESS +++ UFO RESEARCH REVIEW. Vol. 6, No. 3. Bob Morell attacks Jenny Randles on semantics; Les Hall on scientific methodology, plus reviews. THE CAULDRON, No. 24. Doreen Valiente on mysterious powers; persecution of pagans; the deplorable state of Stonehenge; Yule; blocked footpaths; book reviews.